IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with <u>underlining</u> and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claims 2 and 14 and AMEND claims 1 and 3 in accordance with the following:

1. (currently amended) A preprocessing method, comprising:

a) connecting a first unit <u>of an engineering process</u> to a set of second units<u>of the engineering process</u> in a predefined fashion;

b) determining at least one third unit <u>of the engineering process</u> from the set of second units which has a predefined relationship with the first unit; and

c) carrying out structural preparation of the at least one third unit as preprocessing.

2. (cancelled)

3. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, in which the structural preparation is carried out by representing a shortened connection to the first unit.

4. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, in which the at least one third element fulfils a predefined connection criterion to the first unit.

5. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, in which the units have an orientation with respect to one another.

6. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, in which the first unit is used to represent only the at least one third unit which is a predecessor of the first unit.

7. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, in which the first unit is used to represent only the at least one third unit which is a successor of the first unit.

8. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, in which the at least one

third unit is indicated with a short connection to the first unit.

9. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, in which the units are information, in particular activities and/or results of the activities.

10. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1 for visualizing a technical system or a portion thereof.

11. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, in which the representation is effected by means of actuation using a context-sensitive menu.

12. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, in which the units are used to design a technical system.

13. (currently amended) A processing ~~arrangement~~system, having a ~~processing unit, comprising~~processor to construct:

a) a first unit of an engineering process connected to a set of second units of the engineering process in a predefined fashion;

b) at least one third unit of the engineering process determined from the set of second units which has a predefined relationship with the first unit; and

c) a structural preparation of the at least one third unit being carried out as preprocessing.

14. (cancelled)

15. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 3, in which the at least one third element fulfils a predefined connection criterion to the first unit.

16. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 4, in which the units have an orientation with respect to one another.

17. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 5, in which the first unit is used to represent only the at least one third unit which is a predecessor of the first unit.

18. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 6, in which the first unit is used to represent only the at least one third unit which is a successor of the first unit.

19. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 7, in which the at least one third unit is indicated with a short connection to the first unit.

20. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 8, in which the units are information, in particular activities and/or results of the activities.